

Wheeling Centre Market  
Wheeling  
Ohio Co.  
West Virginia

HAER WV-26

HAER  
WV  
35 WHEEL,  
3—

PHOTOGRAPHS

REDUCED 8" x 10" DRAWINGS

Addendum to:

Centre Market  
Centre Market Historic District  
Wheeling  
Ohio County  
West Virginia

HAER No. WV-26

HAER  
WVA,  
35 - WHEEL  
3 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

CENTRE MARKET  
CENTRE MARKET HISTORIC DISTRICT

HAER No. WV-26

DATE: 1853 and 1890, with later alterations

LOCATION: Market Street between 22nd and 23rd Streets  
Wheeling, West Virginia

DESIGNED BY: First market house (1853) by Thomas Pope; second building,  
the "Lower Market" by Edward B. Franzheim

OWNER: City of Wheeling

SIGNIFICANCE: The 1853 structure was originally designed as an open market in the neo-classical style, with three aisles and cast iron Doric columns. The columns were cast by the Hamilton and Rogers Foundry, in Wheeling, and alternate columns serve as downspouts. The building has a gabled roof with a dentilated cornice, and a belfry at the south end. The stalls, which could be rented from the city, were arranged in three rows: vegetables were sold on either side and butchers occupied the center area. In the twentieth century, the stalls were replaced by refrigerators, display cases, and folding tables, and the market structures was enclosed with cinder block infill construction. The cinder block walls were built around the columns, so that they are still visible on the outside of the building. The columns support the roof, which has been reshingled. The interior still has the original pressed tin ceiling and cornice molding.

The later structure, known as the "Lower Market," was built in 1890, and is a brick building in the Romanesque Revival style, designed by Edward B. Franzheim, a local architect trained in Boston. It is open on the sides, and consists basically of a hipped roof structure supported on brick piers. The roof, which was originally slate and is now shingled, is supported by wooden scissor trusses. It has deep overhanging eaves, with cross gables in the centers of the east and west elevations. Terra cotta medallions of animal heads flank the arches.

In the early twentieth century, a wooden structure was built at the north end to house a fish market, and a concrete floor was added, but the structure retains most of its historic integrity.

The structures were used as market buildings, and the Pope edifice also served, until construction of the County Courthouse, as a forum for political meetings. It is still used as a market building year-round. Though it has been enclosed, the earlier building is still visible in its original form. It is thought that it is the oldest iron market structure in the U.S., and it is the oldest public building in Wheeling. The 1890 structure has remained largely unaltered, and is used as an open-air farm market in summer.

TRANSMITTED BY: Monica E. Hawley, Historian, 1983